




Mica Alaniz

software engineer



www.anewpipeline.org



Mica Alaniz is a software engineer working for the Democratic National Committee where she builds tech products to support democratic candidates and voters. Her team built IWillVote.com and VoyAVotar.com to help voters register and find where to vote!

Fun facts:

- A life-long Chicagoan, she's lived within a 30 mile radius her whole life--and she says Chicago is in her blood!
- She didn't know she wanted to be a programmer until she did some coding on the job, and found that she loved it; whenever she was coding, the hours would fly by!
- She is an active volunteer, using her tech skills to support causes she's passionate about.



Front End Development

Front end developers create the visual portion of a website or app. They write the code for the buttons, text, and images that you see when you use a tech product. Front end developers work closely with Product Designers--who come up with the layout and design to show what the website or app should look like--and Back End Developers--who write the code for any data that the website or app uses.

For example, imagine the login screen for your email: a Product Designer came up with the design for how the login screen should look, a Front End Developer wrote the code to turn the design into a website, and a Back End Developer wrote the code that stores your username, password, and email messages.



Lesson idea:

1. Introduce Mica Alaniz and web development with the information above
2. Watch [this video from Octogatos Conference 2020 \(34:18\)](#) where Mica Alaniz talks about her work and her path into the tech industry
3. Explore web development: Choose a cause you're passionate about (this could be anything--from political causes like Mica talks about to plastic in the ocean or a local food kitchen!) and create an app for that cause. Draw the different screens for your app on paper and have a friend go through the flow as if it were a real app!

Explore further

Learn more about Mica Alaniz and front end development with these resources:

Videos

- Mica Alaniz's [Keynote at Octogatos Conf 2020](#)
- [Frontend Development Explained in 2 Minutes](#) by Mayuko

Activities

- Create a personal website! Use HTML and CSS to design a website that shows off your favorite things! Add in a JavaScript quiz to test how well someone knows you!
- [Codepen.io](#) has a bunch of projects made by other people that you can copy and play around with to explore HTML, CSS, and JavaScript!

Reading

- [Spotlight: Mica Alaniz, Senior Software Engineer, DNC](#)
- [Data-driving over 2.3 million voters to the polls](#) by Mica Alaniz